THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Lance J. Gay, et al.
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For	:	SIMULTANEOUS VIEWING OF VIDEO FILES ON NETWORKED COMPUTER SYSTEMS
Group Art Unit	:	2623
Examiner	:	Farzna E. Hossain
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APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Pursuant to the Notice of Appeal filed in this case on April 2, 2007, Appellants presents their Brief on appeal along with the Notice of Appeal.

I.   **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

II.   REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Northrop Grumman Corporation, as indicated by the recorded Assignment, Reel/Frame: 013751/0849.

III.   RELATED APPEAL AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

IV.   STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 which are attached in Appendix A, are currently pending in this application. Claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 are objected to as being unclear. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 12-14, 17, 18, 21, 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,808,662 to Kinney, et al. ("Kinney") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,867,156 to Beard, et al. ("Beard"). Claims 3, 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinney in view of Beard and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,445,176 to Burk ("Burk"). Claims 6, 11, 16, 20 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinney in view of Beard and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,230,171 to Pacifici, et al. ("Pacifici"). .

The rejection of claims 1-25 is appealed.

V.   STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A response to a Final Office Action issued on May 30, 2006 was filed on July 13, 2006. An Advisory Action Before Filing an Appeal Brief ("Advisory Action") dated July 26, 2006 was issued. A first Appeal Brief was filed on November 6, 2006. On January 4, 2007, the Examiner withdrew the rejections made in the Final Office Action issued on May 30, 2006, and issued a new rejection ("Present Office Action"). No amendments to the claims were made after the issuance of the Present Office Action.

VI.   SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

One aspect of the present invention, as recited in claim 1 is directed to a method comprising selecting at least one frame of a video file at a first location (Par. [0040] and 518 of FIG. 8). The method also comprises communicating the selecting of the at least one frame of a video file to a second location (Par. [0040] and 518 of FIG. 8) and viewing the at least one frame of a video file at the first location and the second location (Par. [0040] and 520 of FIG. 8). The method further comprises issuing a command at the second location regarding a control operation of the video file (Par. [0037] and 506 of FIG. 8) and transmitting a command signal from the second location to the first location in response to the issued command (Par. [0037] and 506 of FIG. 8). The method still further comprises receiving, at the first location, the command signal (Pars. [0037] and

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508 of FIG. 8) and broadcasting the command signal from the first location to the second location (Par. [0031] and 314 of FIG. 6). The method yet further comprises performing, at the first location and the second location, the control operation in response to receipt of the command signal (Pars. [0031] and [0032]).

Dependent claim 2 is directed to the method of claim 1, further comprising communicating the selecting of the at least one frame of a video file to a third location (Par. [0030] and 206 of FIG. 5) and viewing the at least one frame of the video file at the third location with the first location and the second location (Par. [0030] and 208 of FIG. 5). Claim 2 also recites wherein broadcasting a command signal from the first location to the second location further comprises broadcasting the command signal to the third location (Par. [0031] and 314 of FIG. 6) and performing, at the first location, the second location and the third location a control operation in response to receipt of the command signal (Par. [0031]).

Dependent claim 3 is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein the command signal comprises a one byte command identification (Par. [0026] and 102 of FIG. 4).

Dependent claim 5 is directed to the method of claim 3, wherein one bit of the one byte command identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of the video file and a pointer command (Par. [0027]).

Another aspect to the present invention, as recited in claim 8 is directed to a method comprising selecting a video to view at a first system (Par. [0030] and 206 of FIG. 5) and communicating the selecting of the video to a second system and a third system (Par. [0030] and 206 of FIG. 5). The method also comprises providing a video on a first screen of the first system, a second screen of the second system and a third screen of the third system (Par. [0030] and 208 of FIG. 5) and issuing a command at the second system regarding a control operation of the video file (Par. [0031] and 302 of FIG. 6). The method further comprises transmitting a command signal from the second system to the first system in response to the issued command (Par. [0031] and 312 of FIG. 6) and broadcasting the command signal from the first system to the second system and the third system (Par. [0031] and 314 of FIG. 6). The method yet further comprises performing an operation corresponding to the transmitted command signal at the first system, the second system and the third system in response to receipt of the command signal (Pars. [0031] and [0032]).

Dependent claim 8 is directed to the method of claim 10, wherein the command signal comprises a one byte command identification (Par. [0026] and 102 of FIG. 4), and one bit of the one byte command identification represents one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of the video and a pointer command (Par. [0027]).

Yet another aspect to the present invention, as recited in claim 13 is directed to a method comprising selecting a video to view at a first system (Par. [0030] and 206 of FIG. 5) and communicating the selecting of the video to a second system (Par. [0030] and 206 of FIG. 5). The method also comprises displaying the video on a first video screen associated with the first system (Par. [0030] and 208 of FIG. 5) and displaying the video on a second video screen associated with the second system (Par. [0030] and 208 of FIG. 5). The method further comprises substantially simultaneously performing at least one operation on the first video screen and the second video screen by transmitting at least one command signal across a communications network from the second system to the first system (Par. [0031] and 312 of FIG. 6), and broadcasting the at least one command signal to the second system from the first system across the communication network (Par. [0031] and 314 of FIG. 6).

Dependent claim 14 is directed to the method of claim 13, further comprising communicating the selecting of the video to a third system (Par. [0030] and 206 of FIG. 5), and displaying the video on a third video screen associated with the third system (Par. [0030] and 208 of FIG. 5). The method also recites wherein broadcasting the at least one command signal to the second system from the first system across the communication network further comprises substantially simultaneously broadcasting the at least one command signal to the second system and the third system from the first system across the

communication network (Par. [0031] and 314 of FIG. 6). The method further recites performing the at least one operation on the third video screen substantially simultaneously as the at least one operation performed on the first video screen and the second video screen (Par. [0031]).

Dependent claim 15 is directed to the method of claim 13, wherein the at least one command signal comprises a one byte command identification (Par. [0026] and 102 of FIG. 4), wherein one bit of the command identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of the video and a pointer command (Par. [0027]).

Still another aspect of the present invention, as recited in claim 18 is directed to a program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method (Par. [0024] and 12, 17, 18 and 19 of FIG. 2). The method comprises launching a synchronous player program at a first computer system (Par. [0034] and 402 of FIG. 7) and selecting a video file for viewing at the first computer system (Par. [0034] and 406 of FIG. 7). The method also comprises displaying the video file at the first computer system (Par. [0036] and 502 of FIG. 7) and communicating the selecting of the a video file to a second computer system (Par. [0034] and 414 of FIG. 7) causing the second computer system to launch a synchronous player program (Par. [0034] and 410 of FIG. 7) and display the video file at the second computer system (Par. [0036] and 504 of FIG. 8). The

method further comprises broadcasting a first command signal from the first computer system to the second computer system regarding a first control operation of the video file, (Par. [0031] and 308 of FIG. 6) wherein the first command signal causes the second computer system to perform the first control operation (Par. [0031]). The method still further comprises performing the first control operation on the first computer system (Par. [0031] and 306 of FIG. 6) and receiving a second command signal from the second computer system regarding a second control operation of the video file (Par. [0031]). The method yet further comprises broadcasting the second command signal from the first computer system to the second computer system (Par. [0031] and 314 of FIG. 6), wherein the second command signal causes the second computer system to perform the second control operation in response to receipt of the second command signal (Par. [0032]). The method yet even further comprises performing the second control operation on the first computer system in response to receipt of the second command signal (Par. [0031]).

Dependent claim 19 is directed to the program storage device of claim 18, wherein the command signal comprises a one byte command identification (Par. [0026] and 102 of FIG. 4), wherein one bit of the command identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of the video file and a pointer command (Par. [0027]).

Yet still another aspect of the present invention, as recited in claim 22 is directed to a computer system comprising at least one processing unit (11 of FIG. 2), at least a video display (16 of FIG. 2) and at least one storage device (12, 17, 18 and 19 of FIG. 2), the storage device tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processing unit to perform a method (Par. [0024]). The method comprises broadcasting a first command signal from the computer system to another computer system regarding a first control operation of a video file (Par. [0031]) and 308 of FIG. 6) and performing the first control operation on the computer system (Par. [0031]). The method also comprises receiving a second command signal from the another computer system regarding a second control operation of the video file (Par. [0031]) and broadcasting the second command signal from the computer system to the another computer system (Par. [0031]), wherein the second command signal causes the another computer system to perform the second control operation in response to receipt of the second command signal (Par. [0032]). The method further comprises performing the second control operation on the computer system in response to receipt of the second command signal from the another computer system (Par. [0031]).

Dependent claim 23 is directed to the program storage device of claim 22, wherein the command signal comprises a one byte command identification (Par. [0026] and 102 of FIG. 4), wherein one bit of the one byte command

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identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of the video file and a pointer command (Par. [0027]).

VII.   GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

A.   Whether claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 are objectionable for being unclear?

B.   Whether claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 12-14, 17, 18, 21, 22 and 25 are made obvious by Kinney in view of Beard?

C.   Whether claims 3, 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 are made obvious by Kinney in view of Beard and in further view of Burk?

D.   Whether claims 6, 11, 16, 20 and 24 are made obvious by Kinney in view of Beard and in further view of Pacifici?

VIII.   ARGUMENTS FOR CLAIMS 1-25

A.   Objection to Claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 as Being Unclear

Claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 each recite that a command signal comprises a one byte command identification, wherein one bit of the one byte command identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of a video file and a pointer command. Applicant's representative respectfully submits that claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 are fully supported by the Specification. The Specification discloses that a command ID section may be a one byte section

where each respective bit of the byte may indicate a specific operation or command (See Spec., Par. [0027]). Applicant's representative respectfully submits that the Examiner has not cited any legal authority for the objection to claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23. Thus, claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 are not objectionable.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant's representative respectfully requests that the objection to claims 5, 10, 14-15, 19 and 23 be withdrawn.

B.   35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 12-14, 17, 18, 21, 22 and 25 as Being Unpatentable over Kinney in view of Beard

The Court of Customs and Patent Appeals has held that to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974).

1.   The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 1

Kinney taken in view of Beard does not teach or suggest broadcasting a command signal from a first location to a second location and performing, at the first and second location, a control operation in response to receipt of the command signal, as recited in claim 1. In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner admits that Kinney does not teach or suggest these elements of claim 1 (See Present Office Action, Page 8). However, the Examiner contends that Col. 6, Lines 23-56 of Beard makes up for the deficiencies of Kinney (See Present Office Action,

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Page 8). Applicant's representative respectfully disagrees. The cited section of Beard discloses that an application sharing guest application (ASGA) 38 issues a REQUEST TO SYNC message 56 to an application sharing host application (ASHA) 37 of host 30 and the ASHA 37 issues a SYNC TO POINT command 55 to an ASGA 38 of all participating guests (See Beard, Col. 6, Lines 49-56). In claim 1, the same command signal is sent from a second location, to a first location, and broadcast from the first location to the second location. Instead, Beard discloses that two separate commands are issued, namely a REQUEST TO SYNC and a SYNC TO POINT.

In the Present Office Action, the Examiner argues that Beard discloses that the ASGA can issue a move point or move cursor command (e.g., SYNC TO POINT command), and that this SYNC TO POINT command is sent to the ASHA which issues a move the cursor command (e.g., REQUEST TO SYNC command). The Examiner argues that although the title of the commands may be different, (SYNC TO POINT and REQUEST TO SYNC), the command does not change, and thus, reads on the broadcasting recited in claim 1 (See Present Office Action, Page 4). Even assuming *arguendo* that this is true, Applicant's representative respectfully submits that Beard fails to teach or suggest performing, at the first and second location, a control operation in response to receipt of the command signal, as recited in claim 1. Instead, Beard discloses that the SYNC TO POINT command is converted by each guest to its respective

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local screen coordinates (See Beard, Col. 6, Lines 54-56). In Beard, nothing teaches or suggests that the SYNC TO POINT command is ever executed on the host. In fact, as illustrated in FIG. 4A and FIG. 4B of Beard, the host viewpoint 42 displays the entire viewable area, such that there would be no need to change the screen orientation of the host viewpoint 42. Therefore, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not teach or suggest broadcasting a command signal from a first location to a second location and performing, at the first location and the second location, a control operation in response to receipt of the command signal, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not make claim 1 obvious, and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

2. The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 2

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is not made obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 1, and for the following reasons. Claim 2 recites communicating a selecting of at least one frame of a video file to a third location and viewing the at least one frame of the video file at the third location with a first location and a second location. Claim 2 also recites that broadcasting a command signal from a first location to a second location further comprises broadcasting the command signal to the third location and performing, at the first location, the second location and the third location, a control operation in response to receipt of the command signal.

Claim 2 further illustrates that the same command signal recited in claim 1, from which claim 2 depends, is sent multiple times. In claim 2, the command signal is sent from a second location to a first location, and broadcast from the first location to the second and third locations. As stated above with respect to claim 1, from which claim 2 depends, neither Kinney nor Beard teaches or suggests broadcasting a command signal from the first location to a second location and performing, at the first and second location, a control operation in response to receipt of the command signal, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, neither Kinney nor Beard teaches or suggests that broadcasting a command signal from a first location to a second location comprises broadcasting the command signal to a third location and performing, at the first location, the second location and the third location a control operation in response to receipt of the command signal, as recited in claim 2. Thus, Kinney taken in view of Beard fails to make claim 2 obvious, and the rejection of claim 2 should be withdrawn.

3.   **The Obviousness Rejection of Claims 4 and 7**

Claims 4 and 7 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are not obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 1, and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 4 and 7 should be withdrawn.

4.   The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 8

Claim 8 recites that the same command signal is sent from a second system to a first system, broadcast to the second system and a third system, and an operation is performed at the first, second and third systems corresponding to the command signal. The Examiner admits that Kinney does not disclose these elements of claim 8 (See Present Office Action, Page 9). However, the Examiner contends that Col. 6, Lines 23-56 of Beard makes up for the deficiencies of Kinney (See Present Office Action, Page 10). The cited section of Beard discloses that a guest issues a REQUEST TO SYNC command, and a host responds with a SYNC TO POINT command (See Beard, Col. 6, Lines 43-56). Clearly, in Beard, the REQUEST TO SYNC and the SYNC TO POINT are different commands. Additionally, nothing in Beard teaches or suggests that the SYNC TO POINT command is ever executed on the host. Therefore, Beard does not teach or suggest broadcasting a command signal from a first system to a second system and a third system and performing an operation corresponding to a transmitted command signal at the first system, the second system and the third system, as recited in claim 8. Therefore, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not make claim 8 obvious. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn.

5.   The Obviousness Rejection of Claims 9 and 12

Claims 9 and 12 depend from claim 8 and are not obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 8 and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 9 and 12 should be withdrawn.

6.   The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 13

Claim 13 recites that the same command signal is sent from a second system to a first system and broadcast to the second system from the first system, and that at least one operation is substantially performed on a first and second video screen. The Examiner admits that Kinney does not disclose these elements of claim 8 (See Present Office Action, Page 11). However, the Examiner contends that Col. 6, Lines 23-56 of Beard makes up for the deficiencies of Kinney (See Present Office Action, Page 12). The cited section of Beard discloses that a guest issues a REQUEST TO SYNC command, and a host responds with a SYNC TO POINT command (See Beard, Col. 6, Lines 43-56). Clearly, in Beard, the REQUEST TO SYNC and the SYNC TO POINT are different commands. Additionally, nothing in Beard teaches or suggests that the SYNC TO POINT command is ever executed on the host. Therefore, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not teach or suggest simultaneously performing at least one operation on a first video screen and a second video screen by transmitting at least one command signal across a communications network from

a second system to a first system and broadcasting the at least one command signal to the second system from the first system across the communication network, as recited in claim 13. Thus, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not make claim 13 obvious, and the rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn.

7.   **The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 14**

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 and is not made obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 13 and for the following reasons. Claim 14 further illustrates that the same command signal recited in claim 13, from which claim 14 depends, is sent multiple times. In the case of claim 14, the command signal is sent from a second system to a first system, and broadcast from the first system to the second system and a third system. As stated above with respect to claim 13, from which claim 14 depends, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not teach or suggest broadcasting a command signal from the first system to the second system. Therefore, Kinney taken in view of Beard also fails to teach or suggest broadcasting at least one command signal to a second system and a third system from a first system across the communication network, as recited in claim 14. Accordingly, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not make claim 14 obvious, and the rejection of claim 14 should be withdrawn.

8.   **The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 17**

Claim 17 depends from claim 14 and is not obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 14 and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 17 should be withdrawn.

9.   **The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 18**

Claim 18 recites that the same command signal (a second command signal) is received from a second computer system, broadcast to the second computer system from a first computer system, and a second control operation is performed at the first computer in response to receipt of the second command signal. The Examiner admits that Kinney does not disclose these elements of claim 18 (See Present Office Action, Page 14). However, the Examiner contends that Col. 6, Lines 23-56 of Beard makes up for the deficiencies of Kinney (See Present Office Action, Page 14). The cited section of Beard discloses that a guest issues a REQUEST TO SYNC command, and a host responds with a SYNC TO POINT command (See Beard, Col. 6, Lines 43-56). Clearly, in Beard, the REQUEST TO SYNC and the SYNC TO POINT are different commands. Additionally, nothing in Beard teaches or suggests that the SYNC TO POINT command is ever executed on the host. Therefore, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not teach or suggest broadcasting a second command signal from a first computer system to a second computer system, wherein the second

command signal causes the second computer system to perform a second control operation in response to receipt of the second command signal and performing the second control operation on the first computer system in response to receipt of the second command signal, as recited in claim 18. Therefore, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not make claim 18 obvious. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 18 should be withdrawn.

10. The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 21

Claim 21 depends from claim 18 and is not obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 18 and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 21 should be withdrawn.

11. The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 22

Claim 22 recites that the same command signal (a second command signal) is received from another computer system, broadcast to another computer system from a computer system, and a second control operation is performed on the computer system in response to receipt of the the second command signal. The Examiner admits that Kinney does not disclose these elements of claim 22 (See Present Office Action, Page 16). However, the Examiner contends that Col. 6, Lines 23-56 of Beard makes up for the deficiencies of Kinney (See Present Office Action, Pages 16-17). Clearly, in

Beard, the REQUEST TO SYNC and the SYNC TO POINT are different commands. Additionally, nothing in Beard teaches or suggests that the SYNC TO POINT command is ever executed on the host. Therefore, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not teach or suggest broadcasting a second command signal from a computer system to another computer system, wherein the second command signal causes the another computer system to perform a second control operation in response to receipt of the second command signal and performing the second control operation on the computer system in response to receipt of the second command signal from the another computer system, as recited in claim 22. Accordingly, Kinney taken in view of Beard does not make claim 22 obvious, and claim 22 should be patentable over the cited art.

12. The Obviousness Rejection of Claim 25

Claim 25 depends from claim 22 and is not obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 22 and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 25 should be withdrawn.

C. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 3, 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 as Being Unpatentable Over Kinney in view of Beard and in further view of Burk.

Claims 3, 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 depend from claims 1, 8, 13, 18 and 22 respectively. The further addition of Burk does not make up for the

aforementioned deficiencies of Kinney taken in view of Beard with respect to claims 1, 8, 13, 18 and 22. Therefore, Applicant's representative respectfully submits that claims 3, 5 10, 15, 19 and 23 are not made obvious by the cited art.

Additionally, claims 3, 10, 15, 19 and 23 each recite a one-byte command signal. In rejecting claims 3, 10, 15, 19 and 23, the Examiner contends that Col. 39, Lines 60-67 and Col. 50, Lines 1-5 of Burk discloses this element of claims 3, 10, 15, 19 and 23. Applicant's representative respectfully disagrees. By virtue of claims 3, 10, 15, 19 and 23's dependence from claims 1, 8, 13, 18 and 22, the one-byte command signal recited in claims 3, 10, 15, 19 and 23 is related to a control operation of a video file. The cited section of Burk discloses that a location 258 is used to store an adapter command byte in which individual bits are used by an adapter engine to signal information to a link control (See Burk, Col. 49, Lines, 60-63). The cited section of Burk is completely silent on the command byte having any relationship whatsoever to the control of a video file, in contrast to the one-bye command signal recited in claims 3,10, 15, 19 and 23. Therefore, Kinney taken in view of Beard and in further view of Burke does not make claims 3, 10, 15, 19 and 23 obvious.

For the reasons described above, claims 3, 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23 are not made obvious by Kinney taken in view of Beard and in further view of Burk. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

D. __35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 6, 11, 16, 20 and 24 as__ __Being Unpatentable Over Kinney in view of Beard and in further view of__ __Pacifici.__

Claims 6, 11, 16, 20 and 24 depend from claims 1, 8, 13, 18 and 22, respectively. The Examiner cites Pacifici for disclosing that a command signal comprises a pointer coordinate position of a video screen. The further addition of Pacifici does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Kinney taken in view of Beard, with respect to claims 1, 8, 13, 18 and 22 from which claims 6, 11, 16, 20 and 24 respectively depend. Therefore, Applicant's representative respectfully submits that claim 6, 11, 16, 20 and 24 should be patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IX. APPENDICES

The first attached Appendix contains a copy of the claims on appeal.

The second and third Appendices have been included to comply with statutory requirements.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this Appeal Brief to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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Claims Appendix

Claim 1   A method comprising:

selecting at least one frame of a video file at a first location;

communicating the selecting of said at least one frame of a video file to a second location;

viewing said at least one frame of a video file at said first location and said second location;

issuing a command at said second location regarding a control operation of said video file;

transmitting a command signal from said second location to said first location in response to said issued command;

receiving, at said first location, said command signal;

broadcasting said command signal from said first location to said second location; and

performing, at said first location and said second location, said control operation in response to receipt of said command signal.

Claim 2   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

communicating the selecting of said at least one frame of a video file to a third location;

viewing said at least one frame of said video file at said third location with said first location and said second location;

wherein said broadcasting said command signal from said first location to said second location further comprises broadcasting said command signal to said third location; and

performing, at said first location, said second location and said third location, said control operation in response to receipt of said command signal.

Claim 3   The method of claim 1, wherein said command signal comprises a one byte command identification.

Claim 4   The method of claim 1, wherein said control operation is performed at said first location substantially simultaneously as said control operation is performed at said second location.

Claim 5   The method of claim 3, wherein one bit of said one byte command identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of said video file and a pointer command.

Claim 6   The method of claim 1, wherein said command signal comprises a pointer coordinate position of a video screen.

Claim 7   The method of claim 1, wherein said command signal comprises a frame number of said video file.

Claim 8   A method comprising:

selecting a video to view at a first system;

communicating the selecting of the video to a second system and a third system;

providing a video on a first screen of said first system, a second screen of said second system and a third screen of said third system;

issuing a command at said second system regarding a control operation of said video file;

transmitting a command signal from said second system to said first system in response to said issued command;

– broadcasting said command signal from said first system to said second system and said third system; and

performing an operation corresponding to said transmitted command signal at said first system, said second system and said third system in response to receipt of said command signal.

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Claim 9   The method of claim 8, wherein said operation is performed at said first system substantially simultaneously as said operation is performed at said second system and said third system.

Claim 10   The method of claim 8, wherein said command signal comprises a one byte command identification, and one bit of the one byte command identification represents one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of said video and a pointer command.

Claim 11   The method of claim 8, wherein said command signal comprises a pointer coordinate position of a video screen representing specific coordinates of said video screen.

Claim 12   The method of claim 8, wherein said command signal comprises a frame number of said video signal representing a specific frame number of said video.

Claim 13   A method comprising:
selecting a video to view at a first system;
communicating the selecting of the video to a second system;

displaying the video on a first video screen associated with the first system;

displaying said video on a second video screen associated with the second system; and

substantially simultaneously performing at least one operation on said first video screen and said second video screen by transmitting at least one command signal across a communications network from said second system to said first system, and broadcasting said at least one command signal to said second system from said first system across the communication network.

Claim 14   The method of claim 13, further comprising:

communicating the selecting of the video to a third system;

displaying said video on a third video screen associated with said third system;

wherein broadcasting said at least one command signal to said second system from said first system across the communication network further comprises substantially simultaneously broadcasting said at least one command signal to said second system and said third system from said first system across the communication network; and

performing said at least one operation on said third video screen substantially simultaneously as said at least one operation performed on said first video screen and said second video screen.

Claim 15   The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one command signal comprises a one byte command identification, wherein one bit of the command identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of said video and a pointer command.

Claim 16   The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one command signal comprises a pointer coordinate position of a video screen representing specific coordinates of said video screen.

Claim 17   The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one command signal comprises a frame number of said video representing a specific frame number of said video.

Claim 18   A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method comprising:

launching a synchronous player program at a first computer system;

selecting a video file for viewing at said first computer system;

displaying the video file at said first computer system;

communicating the selecting of said a video file to a second computer system causing said second computer system to launch a synchronous player program and display the video file at said second computer system;

broadcasting a first command signal from said first computer system to said second computer system regarding a first control operation of said video file, wherein said first command signal causes said second computer system to perform said first control operation;

performing said first control operation on said first computer system;

receiving a second command signal from said second computer system regarding a second control operation of said video file;

broadcasting said second command signal from said first computer system to said second computer system, wherein said second command signal causes said second computer system to perform said second control operation in response to receipt of said second command signal; and

performing said second control operation on said first computer system in response to receipt of said second command signal.

Claim 19   The program storage device of claim 18, wherein said command signal comprises a one byte command identification, wherein one bit of the command identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of said video file and a pointer command.

Claim 20   The program storage device of claim 18, wherein said command signal comprises a pointer coordinate position of a video screen.

Claim 21   The program storage device of claim 18, wherein said command signal comprises a frame number of said video file.

Claim 22   A computer system comprising at least one processing unit, at least a video display and at least one storage device, said storage device tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processing unit to perform a method comprising:

broadcasting a first command signal from said computer system to another computer system regarding a first control operation of a video file;

performing said first control operation on said computer system;

receiving a second command signal from said another computer system regarding a second control operation of said video file;

broadcasting said second command signal from said computer system to said another computer system, wherein said second command signal causes said another computer system to perform said second control operation in response to receipt of said second command signal; and

performing said second control operation on said computer system in response to receipt of said second command signal from said another computer system.

Claim 23   The program storage device of claim 22, wherein said command signal comprises a one byte command identification, wherein one bit of the one byte command identification comprises one of stop, play, forward, reverse and pause of said video file and a pointer command.

Claim 24   The program storage device of claim 22, wherein said command signal comprises a pointer coordinate position of said video display.

Claim 25   The program storage device of claim 22, wherein said command signal comprises a frame number of said video file.

Evidence Appendix

None

Related Proceedings Appendix

None